Time for a Walk

Chapter 1

BY MIZUSAWA MEGUMI

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RMC りぼん
RIBON MASCOT COMICS
水沢めぐみ
おさんぽの時間

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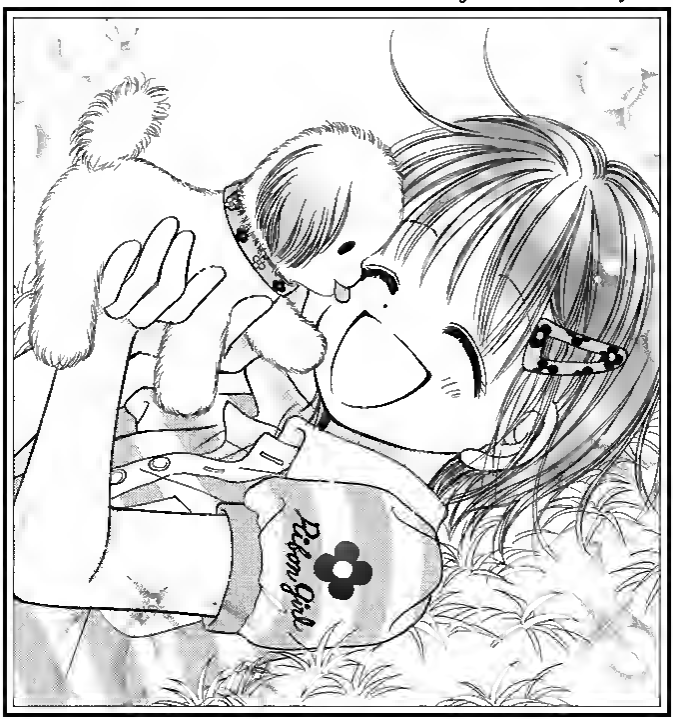
RIBON MASCOT COMICS 178

Time for a Walk

by Mizusawa Megumi



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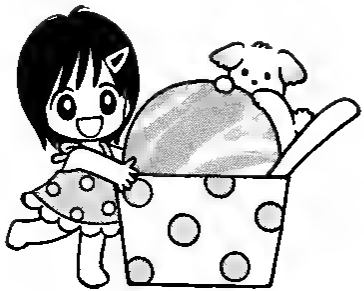
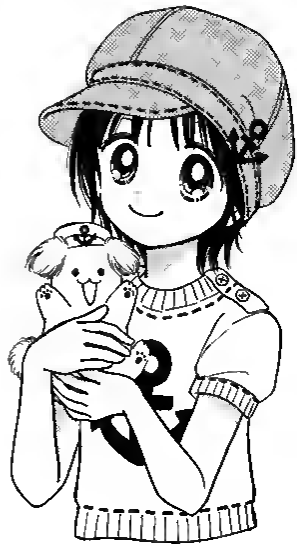


おさんぽの時間
第1話



WHEN I WAS IN 4TH GRADE, I SAW A SMALL ANIMAL AT THE PARK.

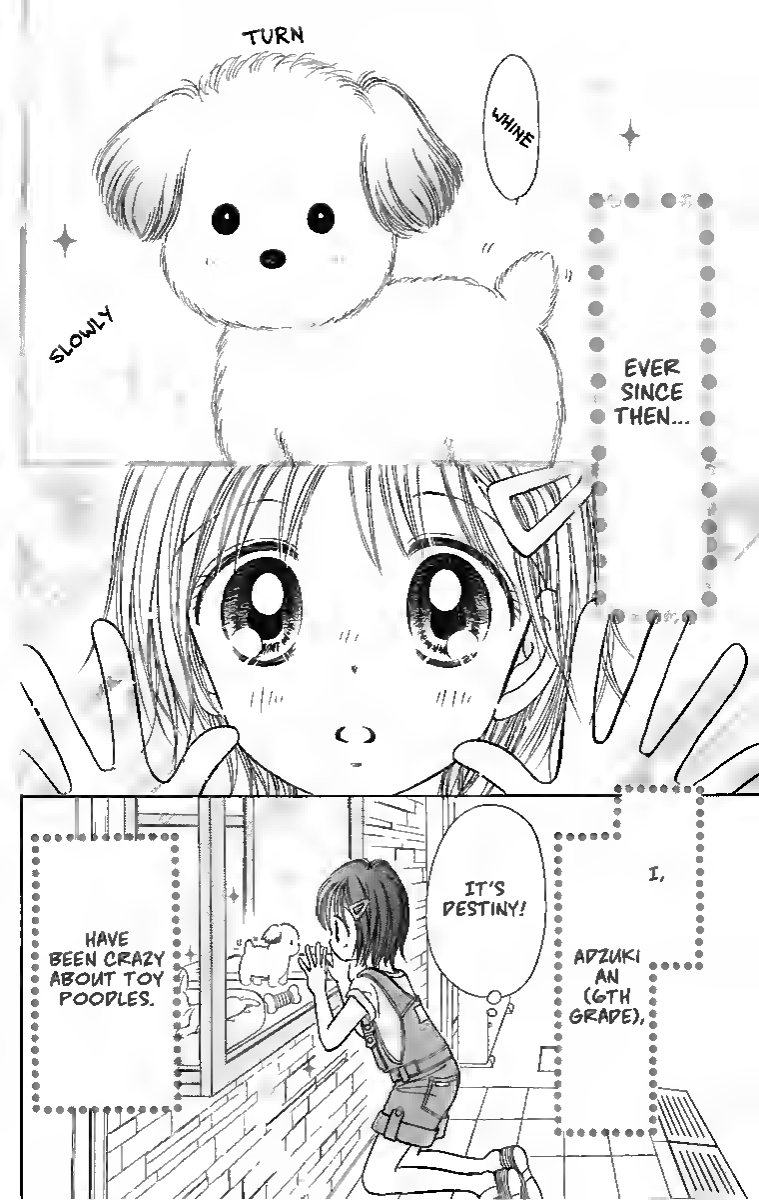
BIG ROUND EYES...

LIGHT FLUFFY HAIR...

I WAS SO SURPRISED I SAID, "THAT STUFFED ANIMAL IS MOVING!"

BUT...

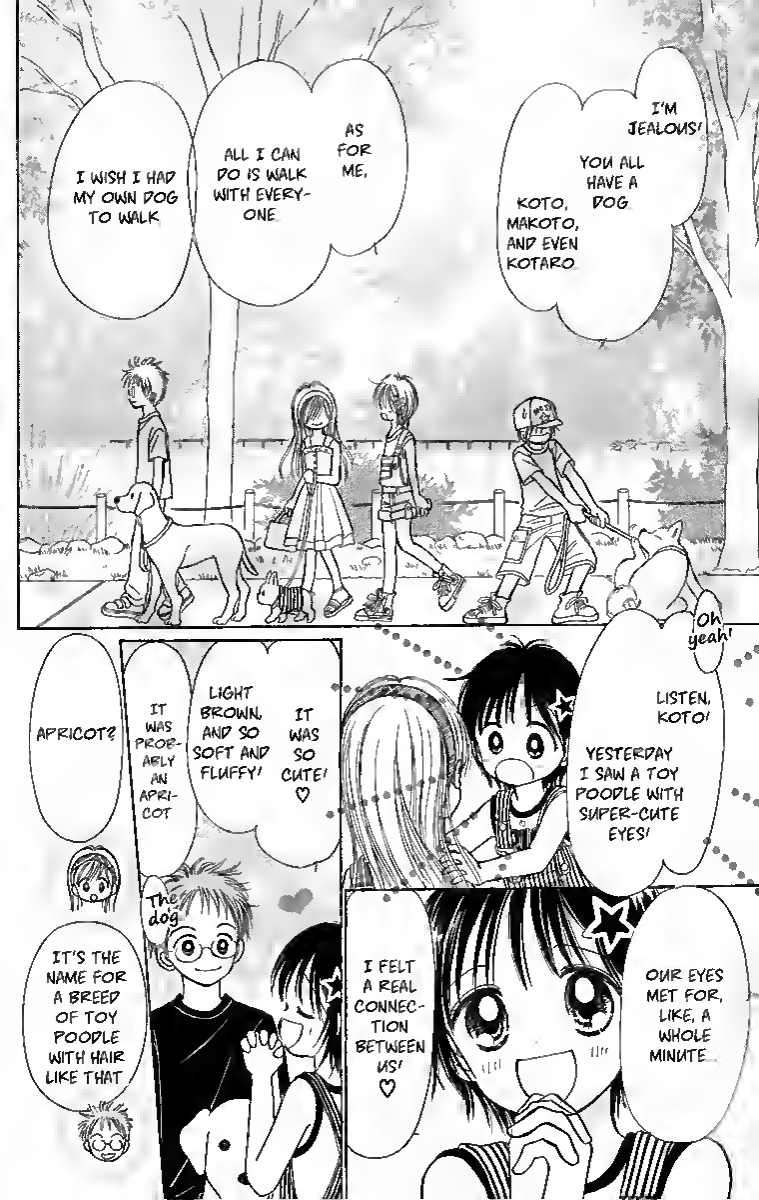
IT WAS ACTUALLY A KIND OF DOG CALLED A "TOY POODLE."

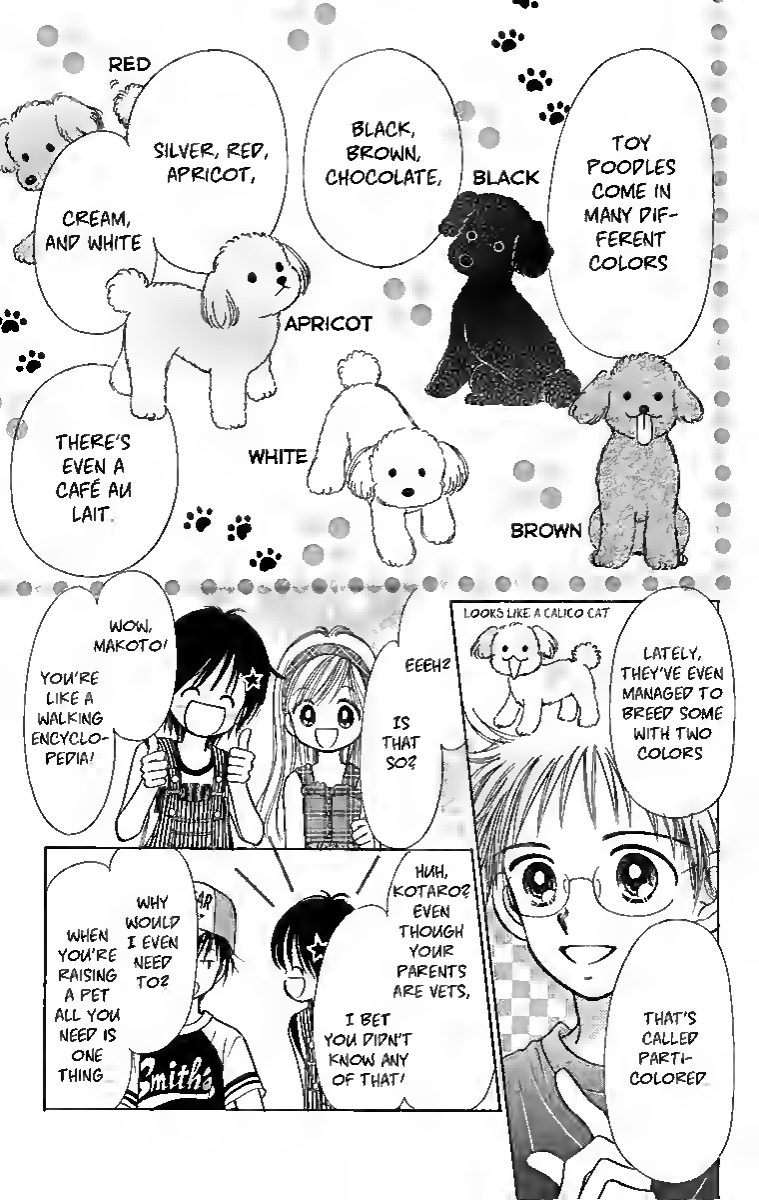

TURN
WHINE
SLOWLY
EVER SINCE THEN...
I,
ADZUKI AN (6TH GRADE),
IT'S DESTINY!
HAVE BEEN CRAZY ABOUT TOY POODLES.

MOM!
I'M BACK!
Had a lot of overtime today.
THEY HAD A DOG! A DOG!
A TOY POODLE!
SFX. THUD X5
THERE WAS ONE THERE TODAY!
IT WAS SOOOOOO CUUUTE!
AT THE NEW PET STORE IN FRONT OF THE STATION!
I JUST HAVE TO HAVE THIS ONE! I REALLY DO!
I PROMISE TO TAKE CARE OF IT!
PLEASE!
Huh? Huh?

BESIDES, YOUR FATHER AND I WORK UNTIL EVENING NO ONE WILL BE HOME
I SAY THIS EVERY TIME, RIGHT?
IT'S HARD TO LOOK AFTER A DOG
I'LL BE AT PREP SCHOOL THIS YEAR, TOO
I CAN TAKE CARE OF IT!
IT'S OKAY!
SHIRT BROTHER (9TH GRADE)
NO.
BACKPACK HALF-OPEN
AH
PUZZLE BOOKS SCATTERED ABOUT
EMPTY DRINK BOTTLE
HALF-EATEN SNACKS
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
SFX POINT
NO MEANS NO!
ANYWAY,
OKAY
Ah

AN'S FAMILY NAME, AZUKI SOUNDS SIMILAR TO AZUKI (RED BEAN), AND HER FIRST NAME, AN IS PART OF 'ANKO', THE WORD USED FOR BEAN PASTE.


I'M JEALOUS! YOU ALL HAVE A DOG. KOTO, MAKOTO, AND EVEN KOTARO.
AS FOR ME,
ALL I CAN DO IS WALK WITH EVERY-ONE.
I WISH I HAD MY OWN DOG TO WALK.
Oh yeah!
LISTEN, KOTO! YESTERDAY I SAW A TOY POODLE WITH SUPER-CUTE EYES!
OUR EYES MET FOR, LIKE, A WHOLE MINUTE...
I FELT A REAL CONNEC-TION BETWEEN US! ♡
IT'S THE NAME FOR A BREED OF TOY POODLE WITH HAIR LIKE THAT
The dog.
APRICOT?
IT WAS PROB-ABLY AN APRI-COT.
LIGHT BROWN, AND SO SOFT AND FLUFFY!
IT WAS SO CUTE! ♡


RED
SILVER, RED, APRICOT, CREAM, AND WHITE
BLACK, BROWN, CHOCOLATE,
BLACK
TOY POODLES COME IN MANY DIFFERENT COLORS
APRICOT
THERE'S EVEN A CAFÉ AU LAIT.
WHITE
BROWN
WOW, MAKOTO! YOU'RE LIKE A WALKING ENCYCLOPEDIA!
EEEH?
IS THAT SO?
LOOKS LIKE A CALICO CAT
LATELY, THEY'VE EVEN MANAGED TO BREED SOME WITH TWO COLORS
THAT'S CALLED PARTI-COLORED
HUH, KOTARO? EVEN THOUGH YOUR PARENTS ARE VETS,
I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANY OF THAT!
WHY WOULD I EVEN NEED TO?
WHEN YOU'RE RAISING A PET ALL YOU NEED IS ONE THING
Smiths

PIIING
DOOONG
I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN
TO THAT TOY POODLE
I hope nobody's bought it yet
LOVE!
CLAAANG
I'M GOING TO BE LATE!
OH NO!
SFX: STOMP X3
MADE IT!
A SLIDING SAVE!
SFX: SWISH

CELEBRATION

TIME FOR A WALK IS ON SALE NOW FROM RIBON MASCOT COMICS!

I ENJOY MAKING TIME FOR A WALK EVERY DAY AS WELL ♪

Except when I need an umbrella.

GRIN

GOOD JOB!

WHAT...?

WHO'S HE...?

UH... YEAH

I'M IN THE WRONG CLASS!

YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT CLASSROOM AZUKI! PLEASE GO TO YOUR SEAT QUICKLY

YOUR HAIR IS A DISASTER, ANKO!

WELL, I ONLY WOKE UP 10 MINUTES AGO

10 MINUTES AGO?! WHOOOA!

SFX AHAHAHAHAHAHA

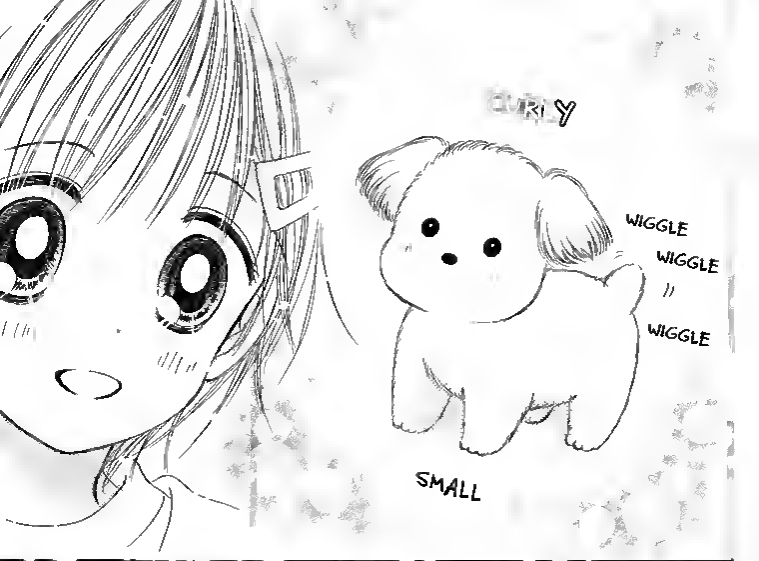
あはははははは

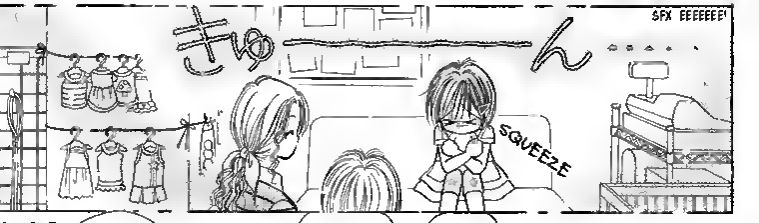
EVERY-ONE,
LET ME INTRODUCE YOUR NEW CLASSMATE
I'M HIDAKA AOI.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.
RIGHT.
GO AHEAD AND TAKE THE EMPTY SEAT AT THE BACK, HIDAKA
OKAY.
CHATTER
He's so tall!
CHATTER
HE'S A TRANSFER STUDENT, HUH?
So cool!
Yeah.
CHATTER
SMILE
BRUSH
BRUSH

Are you going to join any clubs?
Where are you from?
Man...
THE GIRLS ARE SWARMING AROUND HIM LIKE ANTS
Tch
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT A GANGLY GUY LIKE HIM?
WHAT? HE'S SUPER COOL-LOOKING!
DON'T YOU THINK, AN?
UMM...
OH, SURE! RIGHT!
WHAT?
EVEN YOU'RE INTO THAT KIND OF LOSER, ANKO MOCHI?
WHAAA-AAAT?!
AOI, YOUR PARENTS
OWN THAT PET SHOP IN FRONT OF THE STATION?!
WHAT?!
YEAH
IT'S A SPECIALTY DOG SHOP CALLED BARK HOUSE
WE LIVE IN THE BACK PART

HIDAKA...
I...
SAW AN APRICOT TOY POODLE THERE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
It was very cute!
BY ANY CHANCE, DID...
BA-BUMP
ANYONE TAKE IT HOME YET..?
BA-BUMP
NOPE
THAT PUPPY'S STILL AT OUR PLACE

IF YOU LIKE,
WHY DON'T YOU COME VISIT?
DEFI-NITELY!
I KNEW IT!
OUR EN-COUNTER MUST BE FATE!
IT'S ONLY BE-CAUSE OF THE DOG
I KNOW THAT!
I MEAN, LIKE I CARE!
Don't worry about it.
Anyway, mind your own business!
PAT


CURLY
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
SMALL

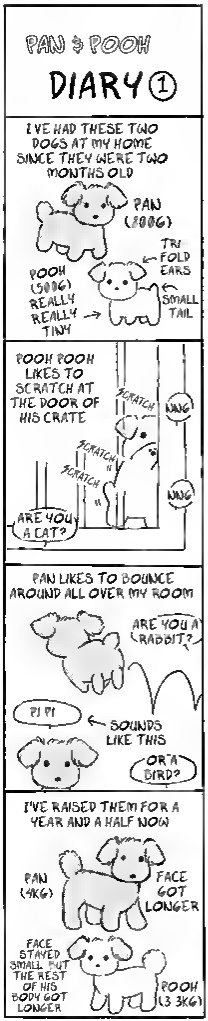

SFX EEEEEEE!
SQUEEZE

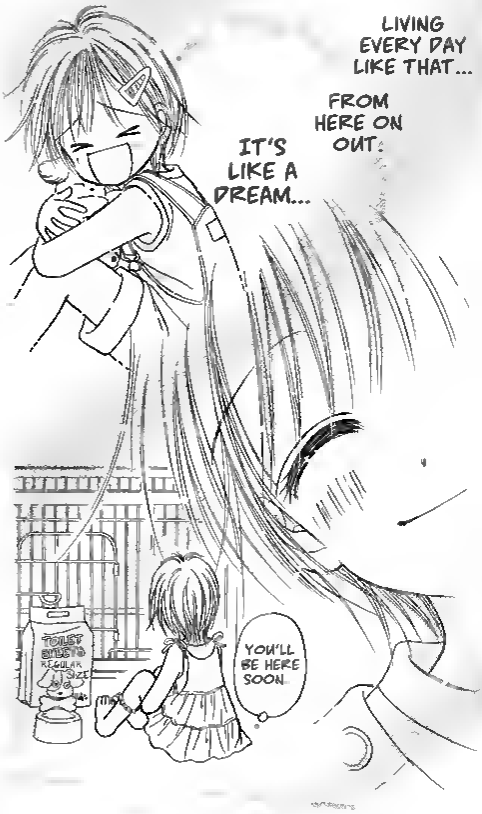
YOU CAN COME OVER ANY TIME
I DECIDED NOT TO SELL THIS PUPPY TO ANYONE
HOW COME?
I mean, I don't want you to, but...
WHAT?
SHE DOESN'T EAT HER FOOD PROPERLY
SHE'S NOT GROWING ANY BIGGER
ALSO, SHE HAS A WEAK STOMACH, AND GETS DIARRHEA EASILY.
IT'S WORRYING, SO I DECIDED TO RAISE HER IN THE SHOP.
I see...
SIGH

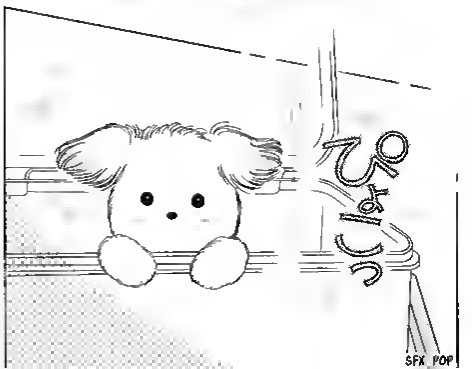
CAN I...
RAISE HER FOR YOU INSTEAD?
BUT
IT'LL BE A LOT OF WORK
I'LL CARE FOR HER PROPERLY! PLEASE!
WHINE
CLICK
I'M HOME!
I RAN INTO YOUR FATHER ON THE WAY

PLEASE!
ぴかーっ
ぴかっ
ぴかっ
BEDROOM
LIVING ROOM
KITCHEN
SFX SPARKLE X3
WELL, WHY DON'T WE GIVE HER A CHANCE?

THANK YOU, MOM AND DAD!
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IT PROPERLY.
I'M GETTING A PUPPY!
THE ONE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED,
THE APRICOT TOY POODLE!
WE CAN PLAY AND GO FOR WALKS,
WATCH TV TOGETHER,
AND THEN WE CAN TAKE A NAP TOGETHER!


PAN & POOH
DIARY ①
I'VE HAD THESE TWO DOGS AT MY HOME SINCE THEY WERE TWO MONTHS OLD
PAN (200G)
TRI FOLD EARS
POOH (300G) REALLY REALLY TINY
SMALL TAIL
POOH POOH LIKES TO SCRATCH AT THE DOOR OF HIS CRATE
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
BANG
BANG
ARE YOU A CAT?
PAN LIKES TO BOUNCE AROUND ALL OVER MY ROOM
ARE YOU A RABBIT?
PI PI
SOUNDS LIKE THIS
OR A BIRD?
I'VE RAISED THEM FOR A YEAR AND A HALF NOW
PAN (4KG)
FACE GOT LONGER
FACE STAYED SMALL BUT THE REST OF HIS BODY GOT LONGER
POOH (3.3KG)


LIVING EVERY DAY LIKE THAT...
FROM HERE ON OUT:
IT'S LIKE A DREAM...
YOU'LL BE HERE SOON


ぴょん
SFX POP

WAAAAAAAAAH!
SO THIS IS A TOY POODLE?
HUH
AWW IT'S SO TINY!
So cute
THE PUPPY IS IN MY HOUSE!
SO NICE TO MEET YOU,
HUGG
KINA-KOOO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
STEP
STEP
SO HER NAME IS KINAKO?
YES! SINCE I'M "AN," SHE'LL BE "KINAKO"*
SHE'S THE RIGHT COLOR, TOO
It's a cute name!
Huh, Kinako?
It is a cute name!
ALL RIGHT, I HAVE TO GO BACK TO WORK
OH, I HAVE A SUPPLEMENTARY CLASS TO GO TO
WE'LL LEAVE HER IN YOUR HANDS, AN
OKAY!

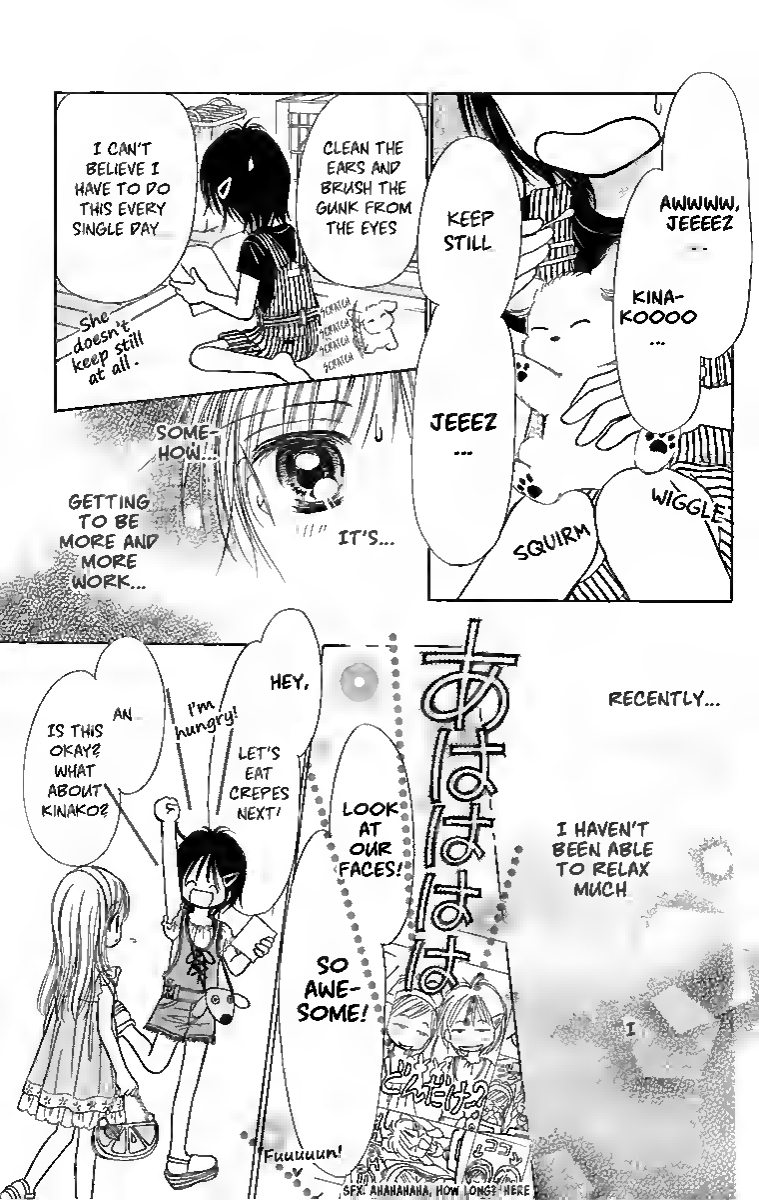
T/N: BECAUSE SHE GETS CALLED RED BEAN PASTE, SHE NAMED THE PUPPY KINAKO (ROASTED SOY FLOUR), A COMMON COATING FOR MOCHI.

ALL RIGHT!
IT'S TIME TO EAT!
DogFood
PUPPY
UMM...
SOAK THE DOG FOOD IN WARM WATER
THEN MUSH IT UP WITH A SPOON
CARETAKING GUIDE
MIX IN A SMALL AMOUNT OF DOG MILK
WOOF MILK
BLOOP
AND LET THE PUPPY EAT IT
Looks gross.
BLOOP
HERE KINAKO,
CLINK
TIME TO EAT!
SCOOCH
SCOOCH
AH! SHE'S EATING IT! ♡
FWIP
LICK
HUH?

WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU NEED TO EAT MORE, SO YOU CAN GROW BIG!
KINAKO
OH WELL
Maybe she'll eat more next time
UMM.
PREPARE FOOD FOUR TIMES A DAY MORNING, NOON, EVENING, AND NIGHT
IF SHE DOESN'T EAT, I CAN GIVE HER A LITTLE MILK...
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
AAAA-AAAH!
STOP! DON'T PEE THERE!
HEY!
AAAA-AAH!
DON'T GNAW ON THE SOFA!
GNAW
GNAW
SWISH
SWISH
SCRUB
SCRUB
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HER LOOSE IN THE ROOM YET.
I got her...
SQUEAK
SINCE SHE'S NOT POTTY TRAINED...

AAAOOOOO
AAAOOOOO
AAAAAAOOOOO
AAAAAAN
...
TAKING CARE OF A PUPPY ...
IS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT ...
KINAKO IS CRYING...
Dotsome-thing.
MATHEMAT
YEAR 6
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, AN?
THIS PAST WEEK...
I'VE HARDLY SLEPT BE-CAUSE OF KINAKO'S CRYING AT NIGHT
Class is finally over
DON'T WORRY SHE'LL STOP CRYING ONCE SHE'S USED TO YOUR HOUSE
I WISH SHE'D HURRY...
SHE'S NOT EATING PROPERLY, EITHER
I REALLY WANTED TO TAKE HER ON A WALK RIGHT AWAY, TOO

IT'S PROBABLY JUST BECAUSE OF HER 3-MONTH VACCINES
So she doesn't get infected!
I GUESS SO
Although it's been 3 weeks since then...
AS WELL AS MEDICINE TO PREVENT
FLEAS, TICKS AND FILARIASIS WORMS
IT'S ALSO NECESSARY TO GET THE RABIES SHOT ONCE A YEAR
FILARIASIS
FLEAS AND TICKS
RABIES
SO MANY...
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT
WHY DON'T YOU GO OVER TO KOU'S PLACE
How awful
GOOD IDEA, SASUKE
COME SEE HOW TO DO IT AT KOU'S
BOOK: DOG OWNER'S HANDBOOK
AH!
ADZUKI
HIDAKA!
WELL
SURE
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, ANKO, YOU CAN RELY ON ME ANYTIME
IS KINAKO WELL?
SHE'S FINE!
YEAH!
What?
DON'T LET WHAT?!
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.


I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO DO THIS EVERY SINGLE DAY
She doesn't keep still at all.
CLEAN THE EARS AND BRUSH THE GUNK FROM THE EYES
SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH
KEEP STILL
JEEEZ ...
AWWWW, JEEEEZ ...
KINA-KOOOO ...
WIGGLE
SQUIRM
SOME-HOW!
GETTING TO BE MORE AND MORE WORK...
IT'S...
RECENTLY...
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO RELAX MUCH
I
あはははは
HEY,
I'm hungry!
LET'S EAT CREPES NEXT!
AN
IS THIS OKAY? WHAT ABOUT KINAKO?
LOOK AT OUR FACES!
SO AWE-SOME!
Fuuuuun!
SFX: AHAHAHAHA, HOW LONG? HERE

IT'S OKAY IT'S OKAY
I PUT HER IN HER CAGE
SHE'S PROBABLY SLEEPING RIGHT NOW
ARE YOU SURE?
THEN I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT
ONE CHOCO-LATE AND BANANA, AND ONE CARAMEL APPLE PLEASE!
YOU'RE GOING TO EAT TWO OF THEM?!
Yuuum!
I'M HOME, KINAKO!
I ENDED UP STAYING OUT A LITTLE LATE..
KINAKO ?
HACK
HACK
HACK

KINAKO!
ARE YOU OKAY, KINAKO?!
KINAKO?!
SHE'S THROWING UP A TON!
HACK
WHAT DO I DO?!
HACK
HACK
KINAKO'S STILL...
REALLY SMALL!
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
I'VE GOTTA TAKE YOU TO THE VET!
I KNEW HER BODY WAS WEAK,
BUT I STILL LEFT HER ALONE...
FOR A LONG TIME...!
KINAKO, I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY!

WHAT AM I GONNA DO IF SHE DIES?!
Miyamoto Veterinary Medicine
SHE HAS ENTERITIS
I SEE
Haaaa...
WE SHOULD WAIT AND SEE HOW SHE DOES
IT DOESN'T LOOK PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS
I HAVEN'T CHANGED IT FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS...
I GUESS...
GASP
HOW'S HER WATER?
ARE YOU CHANGING IT REGULARLY?
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE ATE A LOT

YES
IT MAY BE HARD, BUT TRY TO CHANGE IT ONCE A DAY AT LEAST
I DIDN'T WANT HER TO GET TOO HOT, SINCE IT'S WARM OUT
SO I JUST GAVE HER A LOT AT ONCE...
IT'S KIND OF A PAIN TO GIVE HER LITTLE BITS ALL THE TIME
DON'T WORRY!
WELL,
I'LL GIVE YOU A DROPPER AS WELL
YOU'LL ONLY NEED TO GIVE HER THE MEDICINE TWO OR THREE TIMES A DAY
SFX: SMILE
KOU-TA!
KOU-TARO!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
IT'S ALREADY DARK
TAKE YOUR FRIEND HOME
YEAH, YEAH

NOT A VERY GOOD PET OWNER
I'M ...
I WANTED TO BE ONE..
JUST BECAUSE DOGS ARE CUTE
I DIDN'T REALIZE...
IT WAS GOING TO BE THIS HARD...
WELL, OF COURSE.
THEY'RE LIVING THINGS
THEY AREN'T STUFFED ANIMALS, SO..

WELL, IT IS HARD...
BUT,
ON THE OTHER HAND...
BECAUSE THEY CAN'T CHANGE ANYTHING...
WE CAN GIVE THEM...
REALLY GOOD THINGS.
BECAUSE THEY'RE LIVING THINGS,
AND NOT STUFFED ANIMALS

LICK
IT TICKLES!
AH JEEZ! KINAKO!
LICK
LICK
LICK
THAT TICKLES!
SQUEE
KINAKO
YOU'RE WARM,
YOU'RE ALIVE, HUH...?

THREE WEEKS LATER,
I'LL...
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU, OKAY?
AND WENT TO THE PARK TOGETHER.
WE GOT HER BOOSTERS...
THE WEATHER WAS REALLY NICE, TOO.
OUR FIRST WALK...